



William the Third, By the

Grace of God King of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: Whereas in and by an Act lately made and passed in Parliament, Entituled, *An Act for Raising a Sum not exceeding Two Millions, upon a Fund for Payment of Annuities, after the Rate*

of Eight Pounds per Cent. per Annum, and for Setling a Trade to the East-Indies; It is amongst other things Enacted, That all the Moneys arising by the several Duties upon Salt and Rock-Salt, and upon Stamp'd Vellum, Parchment, and Paper, in the said Act mentioned, shall be brought and paid in the Receipt of Exchequer of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, in Manner and Form as in the said Act is prescribed, under certain Penalties therein mentioned, and that yearly and every Year, reckoning the First Year to begin from the 29th Day of *September, 1698.* the full Sum of *160000 £.* by or out of the Moneys to arife by the said several Duties, and to be brought into the Receipt of the Exchequer, by weekly or other Payments (in case the same Payments shall extend thereunto) shall be the whole and entire yearly Fund: And in case the said weekly or other Payments shall not extend to *160000 £. per Annum*, then the said weekly Moneys or Payments (so far as the same will extend) shall be part of the yearly Fund for and towards the answering and paying the several and respective Annuities, or yearly Payments in the said Act expressed.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That it should and might be lawful for Us, by Commission under the Great Seal of *England*, to authorize and appoint any Number of Persons, to take and receive all such voluntary Subscriptions as should be made on or before the said 29th Day of *September, 1698.* by or for any Person or Persons, Natives or Foreigners, Bodies Politick or Corporate (the Governor and Company of the *Bank of England* only excepted) of any Sum of Money whatsoever, not less than *100 £.* for and towards the raising and paying into the Receipt of Our Exchequer the Sum of Two Millions of Pounds Sterling.

And it is therein further Enacted, That during the time hereby limitted for taking the said Subscriptions, it should and might be lawful to and for all and every Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, by or for themselves, or any of them, or in trust for any other Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, or any of them (except as aforesaid) freely to subscribe any Sum of Money not les than *100 £.* for or towards the said Sum of Two Millions; And that all the Moneys so to be subscribed, should be answered and paid by the respective Subscribers thereof, to such as should be appointed to receive the same to Our Use, at such Days or Times, and by such Proportions, and subject to such Allowances and Defalcations, and in such Manner and Form as in the said Act are expressed.

And it is thereby further Enacted, Ordained, and Declared, That every Person and Body Politick who shoule subscribe as aforesaid, and be named or contained in such Book or Books as are therein mentioned, his, her, or their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, respectively, should have, receive, and enjoy for ever, out of the Fund by the said Act Settled and Provided, One Annuity or certain yearly Sum for the whole

Sum by him, her, or them subscribed, according to the Rate or Proportion of Eight Pounds per Cent. per Annum, in the manner thereby prescribed.

And it is thereby further Enacted, That it should and might be lawful for Us, by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, to Incorporate all and every Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who should subscribe, or for whom Subscription should be made, and upon whose Subscriptions the First Tenth Part should be paid, as in the said Act is expressed; And all and every Person and Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who, as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other lawful Title derived, or to be derived from, by, or under the said Original Subscribers, at any time or times thereafter, should have or be entitled to any Part, Share, or Interest, of or in the said Yearly Fund, so long as they respectively should have any such Part, Share, or Interest therein, To be One Body Politick and Corporate, by the Name of the *GENERAL SOCIETY*, entitled to the Advantages Given by an Act of Parliament, for advancing a Sum not exceeding Two Millions, for the Service of the Crown of *England*, with such Succession, Capacity, and Powers, as in the said Act is mentioned; And in such Charter or Letters Patents, such further Rules, Powers, and Clauses for carrying on Trade, and pursuing the Ends and Intent of the said Act, were to be inserted, as should be lawfully and reasonably desired in that behalf.

And it is thereby further Enacted, That in case the said whole Sum of Two Millions, or one Moiety, or any greater Part of the said Sum of Two Millions, should be Subscribed as aforesaid, on or before the said 29th Day of September, 1698. That then and from thenceforth all and every the Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, by or for whom such Subscriptions should be made; and all and every Person and Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who, as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other lawful Title derived, or to be derived from, by, or under the said Original Subscribers, at any time or times thereafter, should have or be entitled to any Part, Share, or Interest, of and in the said Yearly Fund, and of and in a proportionable Part of the Principal Stock of the said *General Society*, so long as they respectively shall continue to have any Part, Share, or Interest therein; And all and every Person and Persons, who for any time should be licensed by such Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, to Trade in the stead of them, or any of them, should, or lawfully might for ever thereafter, by themselves severally, or by such Factors, Agents, or Servants, as they severally should think fit to intrust, freely Traffick and use the Trade of Merchandise into and from the *East-Indies*, and Parts or Limits in the said Act mentioned, in such Manner, and by such Proportions, and subject to such Restrictions, as in the said Act are expressed.

And it is further thereby Enacted, That if the said whole Sum of Two Millions, or one Moiety, or any greater Part thereof, should be subscribed on or before the said 29th Day of September, 1698. And all or any Corporations, or other Person or Persons, having particular Shares or Interests in the said Principal Stock of the said *General Society*, or in proportionable Annuities or Yearly Payments issuing out of the said Yearly Fund, should be willing and desirous to unite and join together such their several Shares and Interests, and to be Incorporated so as they may be able to manage their Trade (in proportion to their Interests as a Company, and by a joint Stock) That then it should and might be lawful for Us, by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, to Incorporate all such Persons and Corporations, by such proper Names as we should think fit, to be One Company, with Power to

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Manage and Carry on their Trade to the *East-Indies*, and other the Limits in the said Act mentioned by a Joint Stock, and to have perpetual Succession, and a Common Seal, with Power to Grant and Take, Sue and be Sued, and to chuse their own Managers, Directors and Officers from time to time, and such other Powers and Clauses, as should be necessary or requisite for the carrying on of such Trade as should be reasonable for Us to Grant; Nevertheless, with such Restrictions as in the said Act is mentioned, and the Directors or Managers, and other Members of such Company, were to be Subject to such further Rules, Qualifications and Appointments, as we in such Charter should think Necessary or Reasonable to be inserted..

And it is thereby further Enacted, That it should and might be Lawful for Us by any such Commission, or by such Charters or Letters Patents as are therein mentioned, to Limit, Direct, and Appoint how and in what Manner and Proportion, and under what Rules and Directions the Shares of all and every Person and Persons whatsoever in the said Yearly Fund, and of and in the Stock of the *General Society*, or of any Company to be Settled or Authorized to Trade in pursuance of the said Act, and every or any Part or Proportion thereof should and might be Assignable or Transferrable, Assigned or Transferred to such Person or Persons only as should freely and voluntary accept of the same, and not otherwise; and that all Assignments and Transferrences made in such manner should be Good and Available in the Law, and in the said Act there is contained a Proviso or Condition of Redemption by Parliament, in such Form as is therein expressed.

And it is also thereby Enacted, That in case the Duties arising or appropriated by the said Act, should at any time or times appear to be so Deficient in the Produce of the same, as that within any one Year to be reckoned from the 29th Day of *September* which shall be in the Year of our Lord 1699. the Weekly Payments upon the same Duties should not amount to so much as should be sufficient to Discharge and Satisfie the several and respective Benefits, Yearly Payments or Advantages by the said Act appointed, or intended to be paid within or for the same Year respectively, in every such Case every such Deficiency should be answered by or out of the next Aids to be Raised and Granted by Parliament in the manner therein mentioned, as by the said Act of Parliament, in which are contained divers other Powers, Proviso's, Authorities, Privileges, and Clauses (relation being thereunto had) more fully and at large it doth and may appear.

And whereas in pursuance of the said Act, We did by Our Commission or Letters Patents, under the Great Seal of *England*, bearing Date at *Westminster* the 14th Day of *July*, now last past, Nominate, Constitute, Authorize, and Appoint several Commissioners to take and receive all such voluntary Subscriptions as should be made on or before the 29th Day of *September* then next ensuing, by or for any Person or Persons, Natives or Foreigners, or by or for any Body Politick or Corporate (except as aforesaid) of any Sums of Money whatsoever, (not less than One Hundred Pounds) for and towards the Raising and Paying the said Sum of Two Millions, with Power and Directions to them, or such or so many of them as were thereby Authorized and Appointed to take such Subscriptions, and to do and perform such Matters and Things as are thereby Enjoyed.

And whereas We did in and by the same Commission or Letters Patents, Promise and Declare, That as soon as the said Sum of Two Millions should be Subscribed, in case the Subscriptions thereof should be compleated sooner than the said 29th Day of *September*, 1698. or else immediately after the said 29th Day of *September*, 1698. (although only

only a Moiety or any greater Part of the said Sum of Two Millions should be Subscribed by that time,) We would Grant and make forth Our Royal Charter or Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, for the Incorporation of the *General Society* by the Name aforesaid, in such ample manner as is therein mentioned.

And whereas, We did by the said Commission or Letters-Patents, also Promise and Declare, That if the said whole Sum of Two Millions, or one Moiety, or any greater Part thereof should be Subscribed on or before the said 29th day of *September*, 1693. And that if all or any Corporations, or other Person or Persons, who should have particular Shares or Interests in the Principal Stock of the said *General Society*, or in proportionable Annuities or Yearly Payments, issuing out of the said Yearly Fund, should be willing or desirous to Unite or Join together such their Shares or Interests, and to be Incorporated, so as they might be able to manage their Trade as a Company, and by a Joint Stock, then We would Grant and make forth another Charter, or other Letters Patents, and thereby Incorporate all such Persons and Corporations so desiring the same (The Bank of *England* only excepted) to be one Company, by the Name of, *The English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, with such Powers, Privileges and Benefits as are therein Expressed.

And whereas We have in and by the said Commission, Declared, Limited, Directed and Appointed, That the Part Share or Interest of all and every Person or Persons whatsoever, of and in the said Yearly Fund, and of and in the Stock of the said *General Society*, or of any Company which should be Settled and Authorized to Trade in pursuance of the said Act, and every or any Part or Proportion thereof, should be Assignable and Transferrable, and should and might be Assigned and Transferred by any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, Entituled thereunto to any other Person or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, (The Bank of *England* only excepted) who should be willing to accept thereof, his or their Heirs, Executors, Successors or Assigns, and so over *totes quoties* as fully and effectually as any other Interest whatsoever is by Law assignable, and that such Assignments should vest the Interest in the Assignee and Assignees, according to the Purport and Effect thereof; and that after such Assignments made it should not be in the Power of the Assignor or Assignors to revoke or make void any such Assignments, so as such Assignments or Transferrances were made in Writing, and Entred or Registered in such manner as in the said Commission, and hereafter in these Presents is mentioned (that is to say, all Assignments or Tranferrences which should be made before Our granting Our Charter for the said *General Society*, were to be Entred or Registered in the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of Our Exchequer, within Six Days after the making the said respective Assignments or Transferrances, and all Assignments and Transferrances which should be made after the granting of the said Charter for the *General Society*, should be made, Entred and Registered in such Form as by the same and such other Charter as should be granted for Erecting a Company to Trade with a Joint Stock as is therein mentioned, or either of them should be prescribed, in which said Commission are contained several other Powers, Directions, Agreements, Clauses, Matters, and other things as in and by the same (Relation being thereunto had) may more fully appear.

And whereas it appears by Duplicates transmitted into the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of Our Exchequer, under the Hands and Seals of Five or more of Our said Commissioners, being a competent and sufficient Number for that purpose, and made in pursuance of Our Directions in the said Commission contained, That several Sums amounting in the whole to



the said Sum of Two Millions of Pounds Sterling, have been Subscribed, and the First Tenth Part thereof hath been Paid or answered to our Use, pursuant to the said Act, on or before the 16th Day of *July* last past, by Us, and by &c.

and by several other Persons in the said Book of Subscriptions and in the Duplicates thereof particularly named.

And whereas, By Our Charter, or Royal Letters Patents, under Our Great Seal of *England*, bearing Date the Third Day of this Instant *September*, We have Made, Created, Settled and Established the said Corporation or Body Politick, called, **The General Society**, Entituled to the Advantages given by an Act of Parliament, for Advancing a Sum not exceeding Two Millions, for the Service of the Crown of *England*, with such Powers, Privileges, and Benefits, as in the same Charter are Expresed; as by the same (Relation being thereunto had) may more fully appear.

And whereas the said Subscribers hereby before particularly Named and Expresed, are willing and desirous to Unite or Join together their several Shares or Interests in the Principal Stock of the said General Society, or in their Proportionable Annuities or Yearly Payments issuing out of the said Yearly Fund, and to be Incorporated so as they may be able to Manage their Trade in proportion to their Interests, as a Company and by a Joint Stock, and have signified such their Desire or Willingness to Us in Writing under their respective Hands.

Now know ye, That, in pursuance of the Powers and Clauses for this purpose contained in the said Act of Parliament, and of Our Gracious Promise and Declaration, made in and by Our said Commission or Letters-Patents, whereby the Subscriptions and Contributions on the said Act have been Promoted and Encouraged, and by Virtue of Our Prerogative-Royal, and likewise of Our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, We have Given, Granted, Made, Ordained, Constituted, Declared, Appointed, and Established, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do Give, Grant, Make, Ordain, Constitute, Declare, Appoint, and Establish, That the said Subscribers herein last before particularly named, and every of them, and all and every Person and Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other Lawful Title derived or to be derived from by or under the same Subscribers, shall have and be entituled to any Part, Share, or Interest of or in the said Yearly Fund by the said Act settled as aforesaid, or of or in the Proportionable Annuities or Yearly Payments issuing out of the said Yearly Fund, so long as they respectively shall have any such Part, Share, or Interest therein, to be one Body Politick and Corporate by the Name of the *English Company* Trading to the *East-Indies*, and them by the Name of the *English Company* Trading to the *East-Indies*, one Body Politick and Corporate in Deed and in Name really and fully for ever, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors. We do make, declare, and establish by these Presents, and by the same Name they and their Successors shall have perpetual Succession, and shall and may have and use a Common Seal, for the Use of Busines and Affairs of the said Company and their Successors, with

Power to Break, Alter, and make New their Seal from time to time as to them shall seem Expedient, and by the same Name they and their Successors from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter shall be able and shall be a Body Politick and Corporate, capable in Law to Have, Take, Purchase, Receive, Hold, Keep, Possess, Enjoy and Retain to and to the Use of them and their Successors, any Mannors, Meiriages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Liberties, Privileges, Franchises, Hereditaments and Possessions whatsoever, and of what Kind, Nature, or Quality soever ; and moreover to Purchase and Acquire all Goods and Chattels whatsoever, wherein they are not restrained by the said Act, and also to Sell, Grant, Demise, Alien, or Dispose of the same Mannors, Meiriages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Privileges, Franchises, Hereditaments, Possessions, Goods and Chattels, or any of them, and by the same Name they and their Successors shall and may Sue and Implead, and be Sued and Implicated, Answer and Defend, and be Answered and Defended in Courts of Record, or any other Place whatsoever, and before whatsoever Judges, Justices, Officers, and Ministers of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and in all and singular Pleas, Actions, Suits, Causes and Demands whatsoever, of what Kind, Nature, or sort soever, and in as large, ample and beneficial Manner and Form, as any other Body Politick and Corporate, or any other Liege People of *England*, or other Our Dominions, being Persons able and capable in Law, may or can Have, Take, Purchase, Receive, Hold, Keep, Possess, Enjoy, Sell, Grant, Demise, Alien, Dispose, Sue, Implead, Defend, or Answer, or be Sued, Implicated, Defended or Answered, in any manner of wise ; and shall and may do and execute all and singular other Matters or Things by the Name aforesaid, that to them shall or may appertain, to do by virtue of the said Act or otherwise; Subject nevertheless to the Proviso and Condition of Redemption in the said Act mentioned, and to all and every other Restrictions, Limitations, Clauses, Provisoes, Conditions in the said Act contained, and to such other Restrictions, Covenants, Agreements, Matters and Things as are hereafter in these Presents expressed.

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Declare, Direct, Limit, and Appoint, that all the several Annuities or Yearly Payments of the several Persons or Corporations, by these Presents United or Incorporated, or mentioned to be Incorporated into one *Company* as aforesaid, which are or shall be Due and Payable out of the Fund by the said Act settled and provided, after the Rate of Eight Pounds *per Cent. per Annum.* and all the Interests or Shares, which the said several Persons and Corporations hereby Incorporated into one *Company*, in respect of such Annuities, or of the Money subscribed for the same, have or ought to have of or in the said Principal Stock or Fund of the *General Society* before-mentioned, shall be and be Deemed, Accepted, and taken to be Joined, United, and Knit together, and that the Sum Total of all the Principal Money Subscribed by the said several Persons hereby Incorporated, in respect whereof the said Annuities are Payable, shall be and be Called, Accepted, Esteemed, Reputed, and taken the Common Capital and Principal Stock of the said *Company* hereby Constituted, and all and every Person and Persons, Corporation and Corporations, His, Her, or their Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, according and in Proportion to His, Her, or their Interest, Right and Property in the said Annuities or Yearly Payments, hereby United or Joined, or intended to be United or Joined as aforesaid, shall have and be deemed to have an Interest or Share in the Stock of the said *Company* hereby Established, and that all Persons and Corporations that are or shall be Entituled, to any Part, Share, or Interest in such Stock of the *Company*, either as Original Subscribers, or by Assignments, or as Executors, Administrators,

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or otherwise, shall be and be esteemed Members of the said *Company* and shall be admitted into the same, without any Fee or Charge whatsoever.

And Our Royal Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby further Direct, Appoint, and Ordain, and for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do by these Presents grant to the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, That in case any Person or Persons who now is or are, or at any time hereafter shall be a Member or Members of the said *General Society*, and not of the *Company* hereby Created and Established, shall be willing and shall desire to unite and join his and their Share and Proportion of the Capital Stock or Fund of the said *General Society* to and with the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and to Trade by a Joint Stock with the said *Company*, and as a Member or Members thereof, that then the said *Company*, or the major Part of them from time to time, at a General Court of the said *Company*, shall and may if they shall think fit and expedient, and not otherwise admit into the said *Company* such Member or Members of the said *General Society* as shall desire to be admitted of the said *Company*, and from and after such admittance into the said *Company*, the Person and Persons so admitted, shall, to all Intents and Purposes, be and become a Member and Members of the said *Company*, and be entituled to all the Benefits and Advantages of the said *Company*, rateably and proportionably, according to his or their Part and Share in the Capital Stock and Fund of the said *General Society* so to be United and Joined with the said *Company*, and from and after such Admittance the Share and Proportion of and in the Capital Stock or Fund of the said *General Society*, belonging to such Member or Members so to be admitted of the said *Company*, shall by such his Admittance be Transferred to the said *Company* and be and become Part of the Capital Stock or Fund of the said *Company*, and shall from thenceforth be and become Subject to such Rules, Orders, Limitations, Restrictions, and Directions, as the Shares and Proportions of the several Persons hereby United and Incorporated, are by vertue of these Presents, or by the said Act of Parliament made Subject to in all things according to the true Intent and Meaning of these Presents, and of the said Act of Parliament.

Provided always and We do hereby Direct and Appoint, that within Six Days after such Admittance an Entry thereof shall be made in the Books of the said *Company*, and likewise in the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of Our Exchequer, and from and after such Entry thereof made with the said Auditor of Our Exchequer, the Part and Share of such Member or Members of and in the Capital Stock of the said *General Society*, and of and in a proportionable Part of the said Annuities shall from thenceforth be paid to the said *Company*, or such Treasurer or Receiver as shall be appointed by the said *Company*, in such manner and form as the Parts and Shares of the Members of the said *Company* are hereby appointed to be Paid.

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, authorize and enjoin, and require the Commissioners of Our Treasury and Under-Treasurer of Our Exchequer now being, the High Treasurer, Commissioners of the Treasury, and Under-Treasurer of Us, Our Heirs and Successors for the time being, without any further or other Warrant to be sued for, had, or obtained from Us, Our Heirs or Successors, to issue and pay, or cause to be issued and paid, the proportionable Part or Parts of the said Yearly Fund issuing out of the Exchequer, and belonging to the Members of the *Company* hereby established, from time to time to the said *Company* called the *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, or to such Treasurer or Treasurers as shall be appointed under the Common Seal to receive the same, in Trust for the several and respective Members of the same *Company*, according

ding to their respective Proportions or Shares in the said Joint or United Stock of the same *Company*, and to direct their Warrants and Orders for the Issuing and Payment thereof accordingly ; and that the Payments thereof be made weekly , or as fast as the said Duties shall produce Money into the Exchequer for the same , so as by such weekly or other Payments the whole of the Annuities due to the said *Company* , at the end of any one Quarter be not exceeded, as in and by the said *Act* is prescribed, any matter or thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

And We do hereby Order, Direct, and Appoint, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *Company* or Body Politick, called the *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, from time to time, and at any time or times hereafter, for the better carrying on of the Trade and Affairs of the same *Company*, to make or cause to be made any Addition to their said Capital Stock, any Sum or Sums of Money to be contributed or paid by the Members of the said *Company*, or any of them, so as all the Additions so to be made to the aforesaid Joint Stock of the said *Company*, do not at any time exceed the Sum Total, for which the said *Company* may yearly Trade to the *East-Indies*, and other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, by virtue of the said *Act* of Parliament and of these Presents.

And Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant, direct, and appoint, That the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, shall and may for ever hereafter, by themselves, or by such Factors, Agents, or Servants, as they severally shall think fit to intrust, freely Traffick and use the Trade of Merchandise, in such Places, and by such Ways and Passages, as are already frequented, found out, or discovered, or which shall be hereafter found out or discovered, as they severally shall esteem and take to be the fittest and best for them unto and from the *East-Indies*, into the Countries and Parts of *Asia* and *Africa*, and unto and from the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Creeks, Towns, and Places of *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, or any of them beyond the Cape of *Bona Esperanza*, to the Streights of *Magellan*, where any Trade or Traffick of Merchandise is or may be used or had , and to and from every of them, so as the said *Company* do not in any one Year (every Year to be reckoned from the 29th Day of *September*, 1698.) successively Ship-lade, put on board, send or cause to be sent to or for the *East-Indies*, or other Parts within the Limits aforesaid, from *England*, or any other Country or Place whatsoever, any quantity of Goods, Wares, Merchandises, Coins, Bullion, or Commodities whatsoever, of greater Value than in the said *Act* of Parliament, and hereafter in these Presents are expressed ; (That is to say) The said *Company* for every Eight Pounds *per Annum*, payable to them and their Successors out of the said Yearly Fund, in respect thereof One hundred Pounds is to be reckoned in their Capital Stock, as aforesaid, shall or may by themselves or others, as aforesaid, Ship-lade, put on board, or cause to be sent yearly for the said *East-Indies*, or Parts within the Limits aforesaid, Goods, Wares, Merchandises, Coin, Bullion, or other Commodities (being such as lawfully may be exported or sent thither) as shall amount to the Value of the Sum of One hundred Pounds , and after the same Rate or Proportion for all the Annuities or whole Share or Proportion of the said *Company*, of or in the said Yearly Fund, the Trade of the said *Company* to the *East-Indies*, and other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, shall be limited and regulated as in and by the said *Act* of Parliament is prescribed ; which Benefit of Trade shall nevertheless be subject and liable to the Proviso of Redemption , and all other Proviso's , Restrictions , Matters and Things in the said *Act*, or hereafter in these Presents contained : Provided always, and Our Pleasure is, and We do hereby direct and appoint

point, That according to the Directions of the said Act of Parliament, no Person or Persons by these Presents Incorporated, or who are or shall be a Member or Members of the said Company by these Presents established during such time as he or they respectively shall continue a Member or Members of the said *Company*, shall Trade otherwise then in a Joint Stock of the said *Company*, and every such Member or Members before he or they shall be allowed to receive any Benefit in or by the said *Company*, or to do or intermeddle in any of the Affairs of the same, shall take a Corporal Oath before Two or more of the Directors or Managers herein after mentioned, (who have hereby Power to Administer the same) that He or She shall be faithful to such *Company*, according to the best of His or Her Skill and Understanding give his or her Advice, Council and Assistance, for the Support and good Government of the said *Company*; and that he or she, during his or her continuance in the said *Company*, will not at any time or times Ship-lade, send, direct, or cause to be sent from *England*, or any other Country to the *East-Indies*, or other Parts within the Limits aforesaid, for his or their private Account, any Goods, Coins, or other Merchandizes, contrary to the said Act; and that no Person or Persons, that shall have the Order, Rule, Direction, or Management of the Voyages, or other Affairs of the said *Company*, or that shall be intrusted, or employed, to Trade upon the Joint Stock, or for the said *Company*, shall be allowed to ship, or cause to be shipped, laden, or put on board, or to send, or cause to be sent for the *East-Indies*, or other Parts within the Limits aforesaid, any Goods, Foreign Coins, or other Merchandises whatsoever, from *England* or any other Country, until he or she respectively shall have taken a Corporal Oath before two or more of the Directors of the said *Company*, or before the Barons of the Exchequer for the time being, or some of them, that he or she respectively will be faithful to the said *Company*, and according to the best of his or her Skill and Understanding give his or her Advice, Council, and Assistance for the Support and good Government of the same; and that he or she during his or their continuance in the said *Company*, will not at any time or times Ship, lade, send, direct, or cause to be sent from *England*, or any other Country for the *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, any Goods, Coins, or other Merchandises, but such as he or she may lawfully send thither for the Account of the said *Company*, according to the true Meaning of the said Act and of these Presents.

Provided always, that such Persons as are known or commonly reputed to be Quakers, instead of such Oath or Oathes, shall and may make a solemn Declaration in Writing to the same Effect and in the same Manner, and every such Declaration in Writing shall be of the same Validity as if he or they had taken a Corporal Oath as aforesaid.

And whereas in and by the said Act of Parliament it is Provided and Enacted, That all and every Person and Persons whatsoever, that shall or may in pursuance of the said Act, Trade or send, or cause to be sent any Goods, Foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes for the *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, before such Goods, Foreign Coines, or other Merchandizes or any of them (the Goods, Foreign Coines or other Merchandizes of such Company as should or might be erected, and which is hereby erected to Trade with a Joint Stock as aforesaid, only and always excepted) shall be Shipped, Laded, or put on board any Ship or into any Lighter, Boat, or other Vessel for that purpose, shall make or cause to be made an Entry or Entries of the same in a Book or Books for that purpose, specifying in such Entry or Entries the true and full Quantities, Kinds and Values of all the Goods, Foreign Coines, and other Merchandizes so intended to be sent for the *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits a-

foresaid from *England*, or from any other Country whatsoever, with the Name of the Ship and of the Commander or Master thereof, to the End it may be seen by the Inspection of such Book or Books, to which all Persons concerned are to have free access (at all seasonable Times without Fee or Charge) from time to time, whether such Traders do or do not send more Goods, Coins, or Merchandizes in the said Trade then they respectively are allowed to send by the said Act, and all and every such Person and Persons upon such Entry or Entries made, are required by the said Act to make and Sign an Affirmation in Writing, in which he or they are to declare or affirm (upon the Oath or Solemn Declaration which he or they shall previously have taken or made as aforesaid in that behalf) that such Entry or Entries do contain the true and full Value and Values of all the Goods, Coins, or other Merchandizes to be Shipped by or from him or them, on such Ship for that Voyage, all which Entries and Affirmations were by the said Act directed to be made before Two or more of the Trustees for the *General Society* aforesaid, and in Books to be kept by them for that purpose, untill a Company with Power to Trade upon a Joint Stock should be Erected, and after the Erecting of any such Company (which is hereby made and Established) then the like Entries and Affirmations are thereby appointed to be made before Two or more of the Directors or Managers of the said Company, and in Books to be kept by them for that purpose: And in and by the said Act of Parliament it was also Enacted, That if any Person or Persons, who are by the said Act required to make such Entries and Affirmations as the said Act directs, shall neglect so to do, or if any Goods, Foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes so Entred shall be of greater value then shall be specified in such Entry or Entries, that then and in every such Case the Goods, Foreign Coins or other Merchandizes which shall be Shipped or put on board any Ship or other Vessel designed for the *East-Indies*, or ny other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, or into any Lighter, Boat, or other Vessel, to be put upon any such Ship for which no such Entry or Affirmation shall be made, or which shall be omitted therein, and the Effects and Proceed of the same (wheresoever they shall be found) shall and may be Seized, and the double Value thereof shall and may be sued for and recovered against the respective Offenders, and to be Divided and Distributed in such manner and form as We by Our Charter or Charters should appoint; Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, and We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, will, declare, grant, direct, and appoint, That the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies* and their Successors, shall from time to time keep or cause to be kept within Our City or Port of *London*, an Office and Books, wherein all the Entries and Affirmations required by the said Act to be made by particular Persons or Traders as aforesaid, may be made and entred, and that Two or more of the Directors or Managers of the said Company hereby established to do from time to time and at all seasonable times, give such Attendance as shall be necessary at the said Office, as well for the Administiring such Oaths and Declarations as by the said Act are to be Administred by them, as for the taking such Affirmations and admitting such Entries as are to be made by such particular Traders or Persons aforesaid, and We do by these Presents Appoint and Direct, and Our Will is, that one Fourth Part of the said Forfeitures and Penalties last mentioned, shall go and be distributed to such Persons as Seize in form, or Sce for the same, and three Fourth Parts of the said Forfeitures and Penalties which shall be had or recovered at any time or times after the making of this Our present Charter, shall go and be divided or distributed to the said Company hereby constituted for the Benefit of the several Members thereof, according and in proportion to their Shares in the Joint Stock of the same Forfeitures

Forfeitures and Penalties to be recovered in any Court of Record, of Us, Ours Heirs and Successors, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaintiff, or Information, wherein no more than one Imparlane shall be allowed.

Provided always, and We do hereby Order and Direct, That the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, shall give Security as the said Act directs, for bringing their Goods to some part of *England or Wales*, there to be Unladen and put on Shore, (excepting in such Cafes as in the said Act are mentioned to be excepted.)

And We do also Require and Command, That all Goods and Merchandizes of the *East-Indies* which shall be Imported into *England or Wales* by the said *Company*, pursuant to the said Act and of these Presents, shall be Sold openly and publickly by Inch of Candle as the said Act appoints, under the Penalties therein contained, upon pain of Incurring Our high Displeasure.

And We do hereby further for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Direct, Order and Appoint the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies* and their Successors, that during the Continuance of the said *Company*, that no Lot of any Goods or Merchandizes of the said *Company* shall be put up or sold which shall exceed the value of 1000*l.* (Jewels excepted) And for the better Increase of Trade, and Encouraging the Exportation of Goods and Merchandizes of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of this Kingdom, It is our further Will and Pleasure, and it is hereby Provided : And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Order and Appoint, and the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, doth hereby Covenant, Promise, and Grant to and with Us, Our Heirs and Successors, that the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, Yearly and every Year from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 1698. during the Continuance of their Trade to the said *East-Indies*, by Vertue of the said Act of Parliament or these Presents, shall Export and Carry or cause to be Exported and Carried to the *East-Indies*, Goods of the Growth, Product or Manufacture of this Our Kingdom of *England*, amounting in value at least to the Tenth Part of the whole Sum for which the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, shall by vertue of the said Act and of these Presents actually Trade thither, which Tenth Part is the same which the said *Company* ought to Export in such Goods as aforesaid, for their Proportion pursuant to a Clause contained in the Charter of the *General Society*, called the *General Society* Entituled to the Advantages given by Act of Parliament for advancing a Sum not exceeding Two Millions for the Service of the Crown of *England*, as Members of the same Society. And that the Directors of the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies* and their Successors, for the time being, do and shall give in and deliver unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, in Our or their Privy Council, Yearly and every Year in the Month of October, a True Account or Inventory fairly written, and Signed by Two or more of the Directors of the said *Company* for the time being, containing the nature, quantity, quality, value and prime Costs of all such Goods of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of this Our Kingdom of *England*, as in the last preceeding Year have been Exported by the said *Company*, together with the Place, Town, or Port from whence the said Goods were Exported to the *East-Indies*, and that Oath be made of the Truth of such Account or Inventory, by the proper Officers or Servants of the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, who shall keep their Books for the Entry of Goods outwards to the best of their Knowledge, and that none of the said Goods or Commodities so Exported shall be again Landed in Our Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, or be carried to any Country or Place but unto the *East-Indies*, or some Place within the Limits afore-mentioned.

Provided also, and it is Our further Will and Pleasure, and We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Order and Appoint, and the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, doth hereby Covenant, Promise, and Grant, to and with Us, Our Heirs or Successors, that the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies* and their Successors, shall Yearly and every Year from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 1700. during the Continuance of their said Trade to the *East-Indies*, by Virtue of the said Act of Parliament, or of these Presents, furnish, sell, or deliver unto the Offices of the Ordinance of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, or to such Person or Persons as We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall in that behalf direct or appoint to Our and their own Use within the City of *London* or Ten Miles thereof, such Proportion of good, clean, and Merchantable *Salt-Petre* as is herein aforesaid, when and as the same shall be required by the Master, Lieutenant, or other chief Officer or Officers of or belonging to the Ordinance of Us, Our Heirs or Successors, or by such other Person or Persons, as We, Our Heirs or Successors shall from time to time appoint, by notice in Writing to be left at the Principal Office of the said *Company*, We, Our Heirs and Successors, paying to the said *Company* and their Successors, or to their Treasurer for the time being for the Use and Account of the said *Company* the prime Cost thereof, with the Freight, Duties, and other Charges thereupon to be ascertained from time to time by the Oath of Three or more of the Directors of the said *Company* if required, which said Proportion of *Salt-Petre* so to be furnished by the said *Company*, shall from time to time be ascertained and determined in manner following, (that is to say) as the Sum of Two Millions reckoned in Money is to Five hundred Tuns of *Salt-Petre* in the whole, so the Sum or Value which the said *Company* may by Virtue of the said Act or of these Presents, Trade for in any one Year shall be to the particular quantity or proportion of *Salt-Petre*, which the said *Company* shall be obliged to furnish for the Service of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, as aforesaid, within or for every such Year respectively, which Proportion of *Salt-Petre* is the same which the said *Company*, as Members of the said *General Society*, ought to furnish for their Proportion, pursuant to a Clause for furnishing of *Salt-Petre* contained in the aforesaid Charter of the said *General Society*.

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the Encouragement of the said *Company* to carry on the said Trade by a Joint Stock, and for their greater Inducement to make present Payment of their Customs, Condescend, Declare, and Agree to and with the said *Company* and their Successors, that they shall have and enjoy and shall have made to them all and every the several Allowances and Discounts in the Customs of the Goods and Merchandizes by them to be Imported into this Our Kingdom, as the present Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading to the *East-Indies* hath Held and Enjoyed, and now do Hold and Enjoy, by Virtue of a certain Clause in Our Charter of Regulations granted to the same *Company*, Dated the 28th of September, 1694.

And We do hereby further Will and Appoint, That the said Company hereby Established, and their Successors, shall constantly maintain a Minister and Schoolmaster in the Island of *St. Helena*, when the said Island shall come into the hands or Possession of the same Company; and also one Minister in every Garrison and Superior Factory which the same Company or their Successors shall have in the same *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid; and shall also in such Garrison and Factories respectively, provide or set a part a decent or convenient Place for Divine Service only, and shall also take a Chaplain on board every Ship which shall be sent by the same Company to the said *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the

the Limits aforesaid, which shall be of the Burthen of 500 Tuns or upwards, for such Voyages, the Salary of which Chaplain shall commence from the time that such Ships shall depart from *England*; and moreover, That no such Minister shall be sent by the same Company to the said *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, until he shall have been first Approved of by the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, or the Bishop of *London*, for the time being; all which said Ministers so to be sent, shall be entertained from time to time with all due Respect.

And we do further Will and Appoint, That all such Ministers as shall be sent to reside in *India* as aforesaid, shall be obliged to learn, within one Year after their arrival, the *Portuguese* Language, and shall apply themselves to learn the Native Language of the Country where they shall reside, the better to enable them to instruct the Gentons that shall be the Servants or Slaves of the same Company, or of their Agents, in the Protestant Religion; and that in case of the Death of any of the said Ministers residing in the *East-Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, the Place of such Minister so dying, shall be supplied by one of the Chaplains out of the next Ships that shall arrive at or near the Place where such Ministers shall happen to die.

And we do hereby further Will and Direct, That the said *Company* and their Successors, shall from time to time provide School-masters in all the said Garisons and Superiour Factories where they shall be found necessary.

And for the better Ordering, Managing, and Governing the Affairs of the same *Company*, and for the Making and Establishing a continual Succession of Persons to be the *Directors* of the same, We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant unto the said Body Politick so called the *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, and We do hereby Ordain and Appoint, That there shall be from time to time for ever (of the Members of the same *Company*) Twenty Four *Directors* of and in the same *Company*; which *Directors*, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall be and be called a *Court of the Directors for the Ordering, Managing, and Directing the Affairs of the same Company and Corporation*, and shall have such Powers and Privileges as are herein after mentioned.

And We do hereby Nominate, Ordain, Constitute, and Appoint, That the said *Edward Allen*, *Abraham Beake*, *James Bateman*, *John Cary*, *Sir Henry Furnese*, *Peter Godfrey*, *Peter Gott*, *Gilbert Heathcote*, *Edmond Harrison*, *Sir Theodore Janssen*, *Samuel Lock*, *Edward Littleton*, *Joseph Martin*, *Streynsham Master*, *Epbrahim Mountagne*, *Peter Paggen*, *Robert Ravorth*, *Benjamin Rokeby*, *Samuel Shepheard*, *Sir William Scaven*, *William Stewart*, *Thomas Vernon*, *William Withers*, and *George White*, who are severally Chosen for this purpose by a Majority of the said Subscribers by these Presents Incorporated in the said *Company*, shall be the Present and First *Directors* of the same *Company*; and the said *Directors* shall continue in their respective Offices or Trusts until the 25th Day of *March*, which shall be in the Year of Our Lord 1700, and until others shall be duly Chosen in their respective Offices or Trusts, and Sworn into the same, unless they or any of them shall sooner die or be removed, as is herein after mentioned.

And We do further by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, and We do hereby Ordain, Will, and Appoint, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all and every the Members of the same *Company*, hereby Established, from time to time to assemble and meet together at any convenient Place or Places for the Choice of their *Directors*, and for making of *By-Laws*, *Ordinances*, *Rules*, *Orders*, or *Directions*, for the

Government of the said *Company*, or for any other Affairs or Business concerning the same: And that all the Members of the same *Company*, or so many of them as shall be so assembled, shall be and be called a *General Court* of the said *Company* or *Corporation*, which Court shall assemble and meet at such times and in such manner as hereafter is directed; and that all succeeding *Directors* of the same *Company* shall from and after the said 25th Day of March, 1700. be yearly and successively Chosen for ever out of the Members of the same *Company*, on some Day or Days, Time or Times, between the 25th Day of March and the 25th Day of April in each Year, by the Majority of Votes of all and every the Members of the same *Company*, having then each of them 500 l. or more Share or Interest in the Stock of the same *Company*; and who shall be personally present at such Elections, each of them to have and give One Vote, and no more; and that every particular *Corporation*, or *Body Politick* that shall have 500 l. or more Share or Interest of or in the Stock of the said *Company*, in respect thereof at every such Election, and at all *General Courts* for the said *Company*, shall have One Vote for the whole Share or Interest of such particular *Corporation* or *Body Politick*, and no more, which Votes for such particular *Corporations* or *Bodies Politick*, shall and may be given by such Person or Persons, as shall be deputed thereunto under the Common Seals of such *Corporations* or *Bodies Politick* respectively; and the said succeeding *Directors* so Chosen, shall severally and respectively continue in their respective Offices or Trusts to which they shall be severally Elected for One Year, and till others shall be duly Chosen and Sworn into their Places respectively.

Provided nevertheless, That in case of Death, Avoidance, or Removal of any of the *Directors* of the said *Company* for the time being, the Survivors of them, or the Majority of those remaining in their Office, shall and may at any time assemble together the Members of the said *Company*, in order to Elect other Persons by Members qualified to Vote in manner aforesaid, in the Room of those then dead, removed, or avoided.

Provided nevertheless, and We do hereby Will and Ordain, Constitute, Appoint, and Command, That no Person or Persons shall be or be esteemed Qualified or Capable to be an Elector to Vote, or shall give any Vote at any *General Court* or otherwise, for an Election of the *Directors* or any of them, or for or concerning the making of By-Laws, or in any other Matters relating to the Affairs or Government of the same *Company*, who shall not at the time of such *General Court* have in his, her, or their Name and Right, and for his, her or their own Use, and not in Trust for any other, 500 l. or more Share or Interest in the said Capital Stock of the said *Company*, and who also shall not at the time of Holding any such *General Court* take the Oath hereafter mentioned, if required therunto by any Member or Members of the same *Company* then present, having each 500 l. Share or Interest at least in the said Stock, before Two or more of the *Directors* of the same *Company*, viz. *I A. B. do Swear, That the Sum of 500 l. or more, of the Capital Stock of the Body Politick, called by the Name of the English Company Trading to the East-Indies, doth at this time belong to me in my own Right, and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons whatsoever.*

And We do hereby Ordain and Appoint, That no one Member of the said *Company* shall in any Election of any *Director* or *Directors*, or other Officers of the said *Company*, or in any the Business or Affairs of the same, have or give any more than one Vote, whatsoever his Share or Interest in the said Principal Stock or Fund shall be.

Provided nevertheless, That any Person commonly called or known to be Quakers, who at the time of holding such *General Court*, as aforesaid, shall have 500 l. Interest or Shares as aforesaid, and shall then if thereunto

required by any Member or Members of the said *Company* then present having each 500*l.* Share or Interest at least in the said Stock, make and sign the following Declaration, (to wit) *I A.B. do sincerely and solemnly Declare in the presence of God, that the Sum of 500*l.* or more of the Capital Stock or Body Politick, called by the Name of The English Company Trading to the East-Indies, doth at this time belong to me in my own right, and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons whatsoever, shall be capable of having a Vote at any General Court of the same Company.*

Provided also, That such Person or Persons as shall be deputed as aforesaid, to Vote for any particular Corporation or Body Politick making the like Oath or Declaration (*Mutatis Mutandis*) to the best of his or their Knowledge and Belief, for or on the behalf of such particular Corporation or Body Politick, for whom he or they are to give such Voice or Voices as aforesaid, shall be capable of Voting at any of such General Courts as aforesaid.

And We do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give full Power and Authority to any Two or more of the Directors of the same *Company* for the time being, to Give and Administer the said Oaths and Declarations to the said Members and Deputies, and do hereby Order and Direct them to Administer the same accordingly.

Provided also, and We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Constitute, Ordain, and Appoint, That no Person shall be capable of being chosen a Director of the said *Company*, who shall not at the time of such Choice be a Natural born Subject of *England*, or Naturalized, and shall not also then have in his own Name, or in his own Right, and for his own use 2000*l.* or more in the said Stock, and that no Director or Directors shall continue in his or their respective Offices longer then the Continuance of such their respective Interests and Stocks in their own Names and Rights, and to their own Uses respectively; but upon parting with or deducting his or their respective Shares or Interests in the said Stock, to any lesser Sum or Sums then as aforesaid, the said respective Offices or Places of such Director or Directors so parting with, reducing or diminishing their said Shares or Interest as aforesaid, shall Cease, Determine and become Vacant, and others shall be chosen in their room by a General Court of the same *Company*.

Provided also, and We do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Will, Ordain and Appoint, That none of them the said *Edward Allen, Abraham Beake, James Bateman, John Cary, Sir Henry Furnese, Peter Godfrey, Peter Gott, Gilbert Heathcote, Edmund Harrison, Sir Theodore Janssen, Samuel Lock, Edward Littleton, Joseph Martyn, Streynsbam Master, Ephraim Mountague, Peter Paggen, Robert Raworth, Benjamin Rokeby, Samuel Shepheard, Sir William Scaven, William Stewart, Thomas Vernon, William Witbers, and George White*, hereby Nominated, Constituted, and Appointed to be the First Twenty four Directors of the said *Company*, or any other Person or Persons hereafter to be chosen to the Office or Trust of a Director for the said *Company* shall be capable to Execute or Act in the said Office of Director, untill he or they respectively shall have taken the Corporal Oath following, or if he or they be commonly reputed a Quaker or Quakers, then till he or they respectively shall have made a Solemn Declaration to the same Effect, (to wit) *I A.B. do affirm that the Sum of 2000*l.* of the Stock of the English Company Trading to the East-Indies, whereof I am appointed or elected to be a Director, doth at this time belong to me in my own Right and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons whatsoever; And likewise another Solemn Oath or Declaration, in the Form or to the Effect following, (to wit) I A.B. do faithfully Promise, that in the Office of a Director of the English Company Trading to the East-Indies, I will*

will be indifferent and equal to all manner of Persons, and I will give my best Advice and Assistance for the Support and good Government of the said Company, and in the Execution of the said Office of a Director, I will faithfully and honestly demean my self according to the best of my Skill and Understanding, which Oaths and Declarations to the First Twenty four Directors herein nominated, and every of them respectively shall and may be administred by our Chancellor of *England*, or Keeper of Our Great Seal of *England*, or by the Chancellors of the Exchequer, or chief Baron of Our Court of Exchequer, or by any two or more of the said first Directors which shall first have taken the said Oaths or Declarations, and the said Oaths and Declarations to any future Director and Directors shall and may be administred by the Chancellor of *England*, or Keeper of the Great Seal of *England*, or by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the time being, or any of them, or by any Two or more of the Sworn Directors for the preceeding Year, and they are hereby authorized and required to administer the said Oath and Declarations respectively to all and every such Director and Directors from time to time accordingly.

And furthermore Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors; ordain and appoint, That the said Court of Directors shall have Power and Authority to administer an Oath to all the Inferior Agents or Servants that shall be Employed in the Service of the same *Company*, for the Faithful and due Execution of the several Places and and Trusts in them reposed, in the Words or to the Effect following, (That is to say) *I A. B. being Elected into the Office or Place of Treasurer to the English Company Trading to the East-Indies, do Swear that I will be True and Faithful to the said Company, and will faithfully and truly Execute and Discharge the said Office or Place of Treasurer to the utmost of my Skill and Power, So help me God;* And the like Oath to the other Agents and Servants, (*Mutatis Mutandis*) and in case any Person hereby Nominated, or hereafter to be Elected a Director as aforesaid, shall for the space of Ten Days after such Nomination or Election, neglect or refuse to take the respective Oath or Declaration hereby appointed to be taken as aforesaid, or shall refuse or neglect to take upon him, his, or their Offices, that then and in every such Case the Office and Place of every such Person so neglecting or refusing, shall become Vacant and others shall be chosen in their Places by a General Court of the said *Company*.

And We do hereby Will and Appoint, That the said Directors, or the Major Part of them for the time being, shall from time to time and they are hereby required so to do, Summon and Appoint four General Courts at least in every Year, whereof one to be in the Month of *December*, another in the Month of *March*, another in the Month of *June*, and another in the Month of *September*.

And We do further Will and Appoint, That if at any time or times there should be a failure of holding a General Court in any of the said Months by default of the Directors or the Major Part of them, that then and so often and in every such Case Three or more of the Directors of the said *Company* shall and may Summon and Call a General Court, which shall meet and be holden in the Month next coming after the Month in which the same should have been holden, upon the Summons of the Majority of the Directors aforesaid.

And moreover, We do by these Presents Will, Direct, and Appoint, That the said Directors or the Major Part of them for the time being, shall from time to upon demand to be made by any Nine or more of the said Members, having each of them 500*l.* or more Interest or Share of the said

Stock,

Stock within Ten days after such Demand, Summon and Call such General Courts to be held of the Members of the same *Company* qualified for Electors as aforesaid, and in default of the said Directors or the Major Part of them to Summon and Call such a Court, it shall and may be Lawful to and for the said Nine or more Members having each 500*l.* Stock as aforesaid, upon Ten days notice in Writing to be fixed upon the *Royal-Exchange in London*, to Summon and Hold a General Court, and there to do and dispatch any Busines, relating to the Government or Affairs of the said *Company*, and to Hear and Debate any Complaint that shall be made against any Director or Directors for Mismanagement in his or their Office or Offices, and if such Director and Directors shall not clear him or themselves of such Complaint to the Satisfaction of the Major Part of the Members of the same *Company*, in the said General Court assembled, that then within Ten Days, another General Court shall be called and held as aforesaid, of the Members of the same *Company* qualified to Vote as aforesaid, finally to determine the same by the Majority of their Votes as aforesaid, who may Remove or Displace all or any the said Directors for such Misdemeanors or Abuse of their Offices, and Elect and Chuse others in his or their Rooms, in manner before prescribed, and in every such Case where any Director or Directors shall happen to Die or be Removed, or his Office shall otherwise become Void, before the Expiration of the Term for which he shall have been Elected, the Major Part of the Members of the same *Company* to be assembled in a General Court, and being qualified as aforesaid, shall and may Elect and Chuse any other Member or Members of the said *Company* qualified as aforesaid into the Office of such Director or Directors, that shall so Die or be Removed, or whose Office shall become Void, which Person so to be chosen shall continue in the said Office until the next usual time hereby appointed for Election, and until others shall be duly Chosen and Sworn, unless he shall be removed as aforesaid, and for the better Ordering and Managing of the Affairs of the same *Company*, We do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Grant, and We do by these Presents Will, Authorize, and Appoint, That the said Directors for the time being, or any Thirteen or more of them shall and may from time to time, and at all convenient times, assemble and meet together at any convenient Place or Places for the Direction and Management of the Affairs and Busines of the same *Company*, and then and there to hold Courts of the Directors for the purpose aforesaid, and Summon General Courts to meet as often as they shall see Cause. And that the said Directors, or the Major Part of them so assembled, shall and may act according to such By-Laws, Constitutions, Orders, Rules or Directions, as shall from time to time be made and given unto them by the General Court of the said *Company*, and in all Cases where any such By-Laws, Constitutions, Orders, Rules, or Directions, by or from the General Court shall be wanting, the said Directors or the Major Part of them so assembled, shall and may Direct and Manage all the Affairs and Busines of the same *Company* in the Direction of all the Voyages of or for the same *Company*, and the provision of the Shipping and Merchandizes thereunto belonging, as also the Sale of the Merchandizes, Goods, and other things returned in all or any the Voyages or Ships of or for the same *Company*, and in the Transacting and Handling of all other Matters or Things touching and concerning the same *Company*, and shall and may chuse and appoint their Agents or Servants which shall from time to time be necessary to be employed therein, and to allow and pay reasonable Salaries and Allowances to the said Agents and Servants respectively, and them or any of them from time to time to Remove or Displace as they shall see Cause, and generally to act and do in all Matters and Things whatsoever, which by the said re-cited

recited Act of Parliament shall or may be done and in all Matters, and Thing whatsoever which they shall judge necessary for the well Ordering and Managing of the same *Company*, and the Affairs thereof, and to do, enjoy, perform, and execute all the Powers, Authorities, Privileges, Acts and Things in relation to the said *Company*, as fully to all Intents and Purposes as if the same were done by the whole *Company*, or by a *General Court* of the same, Subject nevertheless, to such Restrictions, Limitations, Rules or Appointments as are contained in the said recited Act of Parliament, or in these Presents in that behalf.

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant to the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, That all and every the said Members qualified for Electors as aforesaid, shall have full Power, and they are hereby Authorized in the General Courts or Assemblies aforesaid, by Majority of their Votes aforesaid, to Make and Constitute reasonable By-Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances from time to time, as well for Raising and Calling in and Payment of Moneys for an Additional Joint Stock for the better carrying on and managing the said Trade, and for applying and proportioning the Profits, Advantages and Produce arising by the said Joint Stock and Trade, as for the good Government of the said Trade to the *East-Indies*, and other the Parts aforesaid, and of the Factors, Agents, Officers, and others concerned in the same, and to inflict reasonable Penalties and Punishments, by Imprisonments, Mults, Fines, or Amerciaments, for any Breach or Breaches thereof, and to Levy such Fines, Mults, or Amerciaments to the Use of the said *Company* and their Successors, so that such By-Laws be not repugnant to the Laws of this Our Kingdom, and be confirmed and approved according to the Statutes in such Cases made and provided, all which said Mults, Fines, and Amerciaments, shall and may be recovered and received to the only Use and Behoof of the said *Company* and their Successors, without any Account or other matter or thing, to be therefore render'd to Us, Our Heirs and Successors.

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Ordain and Appoint, That the first General Court for the said *Company* hereby established, shall be held within the space of Forty Days next after the Date of these Presents.

Provided always, and for the ascertaining and limiting how and in what Manner and under what Rules, as well the Principal Stock or Yearly Fund, as also any Additional Stock which the said *Company* shall acquire, or which any Member or Members thereof shall or may advance or pay into the said *Company* for the Managing or Carrying on the said Trade or the Shares, or Interests of the several Members of and in the Principal and Additional Stock, shall and may be Assignable and Assigned, Transferrable and Transferred, by such Person and Persons, Corporation or Corporations as shall from time to time have any Interest or Share in the same; We do hereby direct and appoint, That the same *Company* and their Successors shall cause an Accountant to keep a Book or Books in the Publick Office or Place of Meeting of the same *Company*, to be provided for that purpose, and therein fairly to enter or cause to be entred from time to time the Account as well of the Principal Joint Stock of the said *Company*, as of such Additional Stock if any be as aforesaid, the same to be by him attested upon Oath if required, which said Book or Books shall from time to time lye open to be viewed.

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, pursuant and according to the Power given unto Us by the said Act of Parliament, order, limit, direct and appoint, That the Method and Manner of making all Assignments and Transferrs, as well of the said Principal Stock and Fund, as

of the Additional Stock of the same *Company*, or any part thereof, shall be by an Entry in the said Book or Books signed by the Party so Assigning or Tranferring, in the Words, or to the Effect following, (*viz.*) Memorandum, *That I A. B. this Day of in the Year of our Lord* *do Assign and Transfer of my Interest or Share, or being my Share or Interest in the Principal Stock, and in the Additional Stock and Fund of the English Company Trading to the East-Indies, and all Benefit arising thereby unto his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns;*

Witness my Hand,
Or in case the Person Assigning be not Personally present, then by an Entry in the said Book or Books signed by some Person thereunto lawfully authorized by Letter of Attorney or Writing duly Sealed, and Attested by Two or more Witnesses, in the Words, or to the Effect following, (*viz.*) Memorandum, *That I A. B. this Day of in the Year of our Lord* *by Virtue of a Letter of Attorney from dated the Day of* *do in the Name and on the Behalf of Assign and Transfer*

of the Interest or Share or being the Share or Interest of the said in the Principal Stock and Fund, and in the Additional Stock of the English Company Trading to the East-Indies, and all Benefit arising thereby, unto his Executors, Administrators and Assigns; Witness my Hand,

And that the Entry Signed as aforesaid, and no other Way or Method shall be the Manner and Method used in the Passing, Assigning, or Tranferring the Interest or Share in the said Stock and Fund, and such Transfers or Assignments shall be good and available, and convey the whole Estate and Interest of the Party Tranferring, or ordering the same to be Tranferred.

Provided always, That any Person having any Share or Interest in the said Stock and Fund, may dispose or devise the same by his Last Will and Testament, Attested by Three or more Credible Witnesses; but however, that such Devisee shall not Tranfer the same, or be Entituled to receive any Dividend, until an Entry or *Memorandum* of so much of the said Will as relates to the said Stock and Fund, be made in the said Book or Books to be kept by the said *Company* for that purpose.

And We do hereby Will and Appoint, That in all Cases where there shall be an Equality or equal Number of Votes in any General Courts or in any Court of Directors to be holden, as aforesaid, the Matters shall be determined by Lots which the Treasurer for the said *Company* shall Cause to be prepared and drawn for that Purpose.

Provided nevertheless, That all Matters and Things which the said Directors or the Major Part of them, shall in manner as aforesaid Order and Direct to be, by Sub-Committees or other Persons appointed under them, shall and may by Virtue of such Orders be done by the said Sub-Committees or other Persons so appointed.

And whereas by the said Act of Parliament, all Goods of the Growth, Product or Manufacture of the *East-Indies*, or any other Country or Places within the Limits aforesaid, which from and after the said 29th Day of September, 1698. shall be Imported into the Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, by any Corporation, Person or Persons Trading within the Limits aforesaid, by Virtue or in Pursuance of the said Act, are charged with a Duty after the Rate of 5*l.* for every 100*l.* of the true and real Value of the said Goods, which Duty was thereby directed

rected to be paid over from time to time to the said *General Society* of Subscribers, and their Successors, or such Treasurer or Treasurers as such Society should appoint to receive the same; unless a *Company*, upon the Desire of the Subscribers, or any of them, should be Erected, in pursuance of the said Act, to Trade to the *East-Indies* with a Joint Stock as aforesaid: And from and after the Erecting and Settling of such *Company*, which is hereby Established, then the said Duty of 5*l. per Cent.* is by the said Act directed to be paid over to such *Company*, and their Successors, or to their Treasurer, to the end that the said *General Society*, and the said *Company* respectively, might out of their Produce of the said Duty of 5*l. per Cent.* maintain such Ambassadors or other Ministers as We, Our Heirs and Successors, at the Nomination of the Trustees, Directors, or Managers of or for the *General Society* aforesaid, or of such *Company* should be pleased to send to any Emperor, Prince, or State within the Parts aforesaid, and defray any other Extraordinary or Necessary Expences in carrying on the said Trade: And if at any time or times there should be any Overplus of the Produce of the said Duty, the same by the Direction of the said Act is to be disposed from time to time to and for the Benefit of all the Members of the said *General Society*, until the *Company* hereby Established to Trade with a Joint Stock should be Erected as aforesaid; and after such *Company* should be Erected, then to and for the Benefit of all the Members thereof, according to their respective Shares or Interests in the Principal or Capital Stock of the same, as by the said Act may appear.

Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, and We do hereby, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Direct, Authorize, and Command, That the Receiver and Receivers-General of the Customs of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the time being, and all others who shall or may have the Receipt of the said Duties after the Rate of 5*l. per Cent.* or any Part thereof, do and shall from time to time answer and pay over to the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, or to their Treasurer for the time being, to be applied as aforesaid, all the Moneys arising by the said Duties last mentioned (the necessary Charges of Raising, Collecting and Answering the same only excepted) and that the Commissioners of Our Treasury, and Under-Treasurer of Our Exchequer now being, and Treasurer and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer, and the Commissioners of the Treasury of Us, Our Heirs and Successors for the time being, and the Commissioners of the Customs now being, or that hereafter shall be, and all others to whom it may appertain, do from time to time give their Warrants and Orders for paying over the said Duties of 5*l. per Cent.* to the said *Company* or their Treasurer for the time being, for the Purposes aforesaid, according to the True Intent and Meaning of the said Act of Parliament and of these Presents, for which these Presents, or the Inrolment or Exemplifications thereof, shall be to them, and every of them, a sufficient Warrant and Discharge in that behalf.

And moreover, We have granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, do grant to the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, That they and their Successors, and their Factors, Servants, and Assigns, in the Trade of Merchandises for them and on their behalf, and not otherwise, together with such other Persons and Corporations only, as by the said Act of Parliament, or Our Royal Charter or Charters, in pursuance thereof may lawfully Trade or Traffick to the said *East-Indies*, or other the Parts aforesaid, shall for ever hereafter have, use, and enjoy the whole, entire, and only Liberty, Use, and Privilege of Trading, Trafficking, and using the Trade of Merchandise to and from the said *East-Indies*, and to and from all the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns, and Places aforesaid, in such Manner and Form, and by such Proportion, and

and subject to such Restrictions, Proviso of Redemption, and other Proviso's, Conditions, Matters, and Things, as in and by the said Act of Parliament, and in these Presents, and by Our said Charter granted to the said General Society, and every or any of them are expresed, declared, or appointed; and that the said *East-Indies*, or the said Islands, Havens, Ports, Cities, Towns, or Places within the Limits aforesaid, or any of them, shall not, after the the said 29th Day of *September*, 1698. be visited, frequented, or haunted by any other of the Subjects of Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, during such time as the Benefit of Trade given or intended to be given to the same *Company*, and others, as aforesaid, ought to continue by virtue of the said Act.

And We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, strictly Charge, Command, and Prohibit all the Subjects of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, of what Degree or Quality soever they be, That none of them directly or indirectly Visit, Haunt, Frequent or Trade, Traffick or Adventure unto or from any the said *East-Indies*, or the other Parts aforesaid, contrary to the true Meaning of the said Act, under the Penalties therein contained, and upon pain of incurring Our highest Displeasure (excepting the said *Company* and such others as may lawfully go) and Trade to the *East-Indies* and other the Parts aforesaid, by virtue of the said Act, or of Our Royal Charter or Charters pursuant thereunto, and excepting their Factors, Agents, and Servants respectively, who shall be employed according to the true Meaning of the said Act, and so as the Governours and *Company* of Merchants of *London*, Trading to the *East-Indies*, formerly Constituted, shall not be restrained hereby from continuing to Trade within the Limits aforesaid, until the 29th Day of *September*, 1701. And so as such Ships not in the Service of the said Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading into the *East-Indies*, which were cleared Outward from *England* or elsewhere for the *East-Indies*, or other Limits aforesaid, before the First Day of *July*, 1698. or the Lading thereof, so as they return into some Port of this Kingdom without breaking Bulk in any part of *Europe*, shall not be liable to any the Penalties, Forfeitures, or Displeasure before mentioned.

And We do hereby, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant full Power and Authority to the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, for the time being, That they, by themselves, their Deputies, Factors, Substitutes, and Assigns, shall and may from time to time, and at all times hereafter, take and seize all such Ships, Vessels, Goods, Merchandise, Bullion, Wares, and Commodities whatsoever in *England*, or in the *East-Indies*, or elsewhere, which by virtue of the said Act of Parliament shall or may be forfeited, or shall be seizable for want of any Entry, or for any false Entry, in the Books of the said *Company*; or for want of any Affirmation to be made, as the said Act directs; or for non-payment of the said Duty of *5 l. per Cent.* or for unlawful Trading or Trafficking, or for any other Offence against the said Act, or for any Causa whatsoever, whereupon the same or any of them shall be forfeited, or shall or may be seized by virtue of the said Act, and for that End and Purpose shall and may from time to time make search, do, perform, and execute all such Matters and Things, and in such ample Manner and Form as any Officer or Officers of the Customs, of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, can or may lawfully do, perform, or execute in or for the Seizing and Recovering of any uncustomed or prohibited Goods whatsoever.

Provided always, and We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said *English Company Trading to the East-Indies*, and their Successors, full Power and Authority at any time or times, and from time to time hereafter, to License and Permit all or any the Agents, Factors,

And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Covenant, Grant and Agree to and with the said *Company* and their Successors, That We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter, upon the humble Suit and Request of the said *Company* and their Successors, give and grant unto them all such further and other Powers, Privileges, Authorities, Matters and Things, which We or they can or may lawfully grant, and as shall be reasonably advised and devised by the Council Learned of the same *Company* and their Successors for the time being, and shall be approved by Our Attorney or Solicitor-General, on Our behalf. In Witness whereof We have Caused these Our Letters to be made Patents. Witness, *Thomas* Archibishop of *Canterbury*, and the rest of the Keepers and Justices of the Kingdom, at *Westminster* the Fifth day of *September*, in the Tenth Year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy-Seal.

P I G O T T.